Farmington, April 10. 1846.

Brother Tappan,

26 Yours of the 3d. containing my appointment by the Committee, as Secretary of the A. & F. A. S. Society was not received until the 7th. Please present my thanks to the Committe for the appointment.

I regret exceedingly that the Committee did not act in view of the conditions I left with you. I fear that in stating them now, and saying what else I may have occasion to, the Committee may think me unnecessarily cautious and particular. I do not mean to be so. But it is no slight matter for a man to change his whole business for life — to break up the whole current and habit of his pursuits, and enter upon others; and having done so once, as a mere temporary arrangement, and experienced its effects, I can on no consideration do so again, unless arrangements can be made, that in my best judgment, will fully warrant it.

You will remember that I have always refused to entertain the idea of a secretaryship at New-York of any sort, except provision were made for my support by private subscription, entirely distinct from the regular receipts and expenditures of the Society, be the Society what it might. I have intended by this, that the amount and the payment of my salary should not be a society business at all, and therefore never be subject to the inquiry and revision of the Society, as such.. I have put the matter on this ground, because the members of a Society, scattered over the country at large, can never be made to understand what the expenses of living in the city are, and therefore, why a man living there, should need so much more salary than in the country; and because, also, I can never voluntarily place myself in a situation to have my name and salary bandied about in the public press as Stanton's, Leavitt's, and Birney's have been.

The vote of the Committee, as it now stands, makes not only my appointment, but the amount of my salary, Society business. At the very next meeting of the Society, should I accept the appointment, it will be

competent for the Society to appoint a special Committee to inquire and report on the subject of the Secretary's salary; and on finding that by vote of the Committee it is to be fifteen hundred dollars a year, to vote that the Committee be directed to reduce it to any sum, which the Society, as such, shall deem reasonable. In this shape of the appointment then, I must respectfully decline it.

Again, when I left Boston for this place, I went by the way of New-York, solely to assist you in getting out the forth-coming Union Missionary and Reporter, and to come to some final decision with the Committee respecting the Secretaryship. I supposed that the latter would have been done at the meeting of the Committee, at which I was present; and accordingly, I made a minute of the terms upon which I would enter upon it. Had the thing been then decided, I should have written at once to my people, asking a dismission, and should have proceeded at once to make arrangements for entering upon my new duties. As it now is, though I do not doubt the Committee will cheerfully do all that seems to them proper and reasonable, yet as I cannot accept the appointment in its present shape, and as I do not know whether the Committee will regard the conditions referred to as reasonable, I cannot, of course, ask a dismission from my people, or take any steps in the case, that will be of a decisive and final character on my part. The result is, that if we finally come to an agreement, I cannot signify my acceptance, nor enter in any measure on my duties, sooner than the middle of this, or the first of next month. As, in case I leave, I shall expect no compensation from my people at East Boston after the 1st of April, that being the end of their financial year, and I having been now absent from them, the expense of the change, and the difference in the time of beginning my duties for the Society, will fully equal one twelfth of a year's income, unless it is partially provided for, in the manner herein after stated. With these explanatory statements, I will now submit to the Committee the precise conditions on which I am willing to undertake the Secretaryship, with the Editorship of the Reporter, &c.

1. The Committee may appoint me as Secretary &c, simply, with no provision as a Committee for my salary — that being provided

for wholly by individuals, and as a thing with which the Committee, as such, have nothing to do: or

2. The Committee may appoint me as above, with provision as a Committee for a salary of eight hundred dollars per year, payable quarterly — for which I will look to the Committee as such, provided individuals, as such, and as a thing with which the Committee, as such, shall have no concern, will be personally responsible to me for an annual sum of seven hundred dollars more, payable quarterly, each individual so subscribing, engaging to pay the sum he subscribes, so long as the Committee shall retain me in the Secretaryship, except as he shall give six months notice to the person or persons having the affair in charge, of his inability or unwillingness to continue the subscription longer, in which case, the person or persons having the thing in charge, shall see the subscription filled up by some other person, or otherwise.

3. My salary to commence on the 15th of April inst. — by which time the Committee will be able to come to their decision, and within a day or two of which, I shall have reached Boston, and having learned the result, can proceed at once to the preparation of a Reporter, and such other things as may be necessary with reference to the annual meeting, at the same time that I am making the changes necessary to my removal from East Boston, should such be the wish of the Committee.

4. The appointment to be with the additional conditions, that I shall be at liberty, should I desire it, to make it home in Farmington for the summer, as proposed in the paper submitted to you; and that I retain copy-rights, &c as proposed in the same paper — this last, however, being subject, should the Committee desire it, to any such modifications as may be deemed just and reasonable by us mutually, or by any two disinterested persons, mutually chosen to consider and decide respecting it.

Should these conditions meet the views of the Committee, I will enter on the work at the earliest practicable period; and will endeavor not to disappoint their expectations as to the amount of duty rendered. I will also aid you all I can, without compensation in the Missionary affairs. If the Missionary Committee choose to pay the Anti-Slavery Committee something for those services, very well. I am willing to

can the A. S. Committee what I can in that way, but the amount of service I do in that way, must be a matter of convenience and agreement from time to time, not a part of my permanent and official duties as Secretary. I also believe, that if my health were ever so good, I could serve the Committee and the cause more effectually during the ensuing summer, by being for the most secluded from the interruptions incident to my being in the city, as I shall be here. In my present health, I have no doubt of it. At all events, you may be sure I have no idea of making the situation a sinecure, either in respect to my health, my labor, or my pecuniary income. I only wish to secure a comfortable support, and to avoid what I have so long had, the wearing pressure of a double official obligation and service. I shall be in East Boston, D. V. by Wednesday of next week, when I shall be happy to learn the decision of the Committee.

A. A. Phelps. to
Louis Tappan
April 10. 1844
Secretaryship.
Copy.